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CURIMATUS SPILURUS COPE, A WRONGLY IDENTIFIED CHARACIN.

BY HENRY W. FOWLER.

In 1878 Prof. Cope lists the specimens described below as *Curimatus spilurus* Günther without comment. In 1906 I followed this identification, though recently have been able to examine Günther's species, and find it distinct. Cope's species therefore requires a new name, and is evidently the type of a new subgenus as well.

XYROCHARAX subgen. nov.

Type *Curimatus stigmaturus* sp. nom. nov.

Back elevated or hunched conspicuously in front. Scales large, smooth, in even lengthwise series. Caudal lobes naked.

Small fishes of the Amazons.

(*Ξυρόν*, razor; *Χάραξ*, Charax; with reference to the trenchant elevated predorsal region.)

***Curimatus stigmaturus* sp. nom. nov.**

Curimatus spilurus (not of Günther) Cope, Proc. Amer. Philos. Soc. Phila., XVII, 1878, p. 684. Peruvian Amazon.

Curimata spilura Fowler, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1906, p. 297, fig. 4 (Cope's material).

Head $2\frac{4}{5}$; depth $2\frac{1}{2}$; D. iii, 9; A. iii, 8; P. i, 10; V. i, 8; scales 30 in l. l. to caudal base, and 3? more on latter; 6 scales above l. l. to dorsal origin; 5 scales below l. l. to ventral origin; 4 scales below l. l. to anal origin; predorsal scales 9? (damaged); snout $3\frac{3}{4}$ in head; eye $2\frac{2}{3}$; maxillary $4\frac{2}{3}$; interorbital $2\frac{2}{3}$; least depth of caudal peduncle $2\frac{1}{4}$.

Body elongate, well compressed, deepest or hunched at dorsal origin, so that predorsal forms well-curved convex profile sloping very steeply to occiput, the incline not broken. Predorsal also trenchant or with slight median keel. Postdorsal constricted, though convex. Preventral and postanal convex, first broadly so. Postventral apparently trenchant. Caudal peduncle compressed, deep, and least depth nearly equals its length.

Head large, depressed above or in front, which level and obliquely and steeply inclined to predorsal in nearly straight line, as seen in profile. Head with sides flattened and well constricted below to form rather narrow edge with nearly horizontal profile. Snout

broad, depressed or flattened, and trifle wider than long. Eye large, little elevated, a little anterior. Adipose eyelid not developed. Mouth broad, terminal, with short commissure about half way in snout length. Maxillary small, thin, about $\frac{2}{3}$ in snout. Lips thin, and rather firm cutaneous edges without cilia. Tongue not distinct. Jaws about even, rami wide and little elevated in mouth. Nostrils together, about last third in snout length, anterior simple pore and posterior in crescent. Interorbital broad, flat. Preorbital rather narrow, equals long infraorbital, both smooth. Preopercle concurrent with infraorbital and cheek thus covered entirely by last. Opercle large, smooth. Occipital fontanel broad, uninterrupted from internasal space to occiput. Occipital process short and equilaterally triangular.

Gill-opening extends forward about midway in eye. No gill-rakers. Filaments about half of eye. Isthmus narrowly constricted, convex.

Scales large, cycloid, exposed edges entire, attached edges usually with 3 lobules. Scales of mostly uniform size, though a little smaller on caudal base. Scales on isthmus slightly smaller than those on breast, and latter equal those on sides of body, also of uniform size over their area. Ventral with small axillary pointed scaly flap. L. 1. complete, straight, inclined parallel with axis of body from shoulder to caudal base medianly. Tubes simple, and about equally developed anteriorly as elsewhere. Hind edge of each scale in l. 1. with slight notch.¹

Dorsal origin midway between snout tip and origin of adipose fin, and apparently front rays little longer than others (fin damaged). Adipose fin slender, about long as eye. Anal inserted well before front of adipose fin, or about midway between ventral origin and caudal base, front rays longest (fin damaged). Pectoral short (damaged). Ventral inserted about opposite middle of dorsal base, fin pointed and nearly reaches anal. Vent close before anal.

Color in alcohol brownish, paler on sides of head and body, and lower regions, where also with slightly silvery tinge. Iris whitish. Including l. 1. for width of its scales its entire extent paler band. Caudal blackish basally, or spot thus formed about equal to eye, and but slightly reflected on median rays for a short space. Fins pale brownish.

Length 38 mm. (caudal damaged).

¹ Not shown on my figure in Proc., 1906.

Type, No. 21,424, A. N. S. P. Nauta, on the Marañon River, Peru. 1873, Prof. James Orton. From Prof. E. D. Cope.

Also Nos. 21,425 to 21,427, A. N. S. P., paratypes, same data. These show: Head $2\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{7}{8}$; depth $2\frac{2}{5}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$; D. iii, 9; A. iii, 7 or iii, 8; scales 29 or 30 in l. l. to caudal base and 3 more on latter; 5 or 6 scales above l. l.; 5 scales below l. l. to ventral origin; 10 predorsal scales (mostly damaged); snout $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{2}{5}$ in head; eye $2\frac{2}{3}$ to $2\frac{7}{8}$; maxillary $4\frac{2}{5}$ to $4\frac{2}{3}$; interorbital $2\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$; length 33 to 38 mm. (caudals damaged).

This species is related to *Curimatus dorsalis* Eigenmann and Eigenmann.² In *C. dorsalis* the preventral region is described with a median series of large scales, though in the present species they are uniform in size. *C. dorsalis* has persistent scales, with the broadly rounded posterior margin crenate, and in *C. stigmaturus* the scales have the rounded posterior margin entire. *C. dorsalis* has the pores of the anterior scales of the lateral line imperfectly developed or wanting, while in *C. stigmaturus* they are about equally developed. *C. dorsalis* has origin of dorsal midway between tip of snout and tip of adipose fin, while it is more anterior in *C. stigmaturus*. The other characters given for *C. dorsalis* are largely in agreement, though do not appear to me to be construed as due to age.

(Στίγμα, blotch; ὄψα, tail; on account of the dark caudal spot.)

² Ann. N. Y. Acad. Sci., IV, 1889, pp. 4-20.